

## AFN-K television, radio highlights mission, informs

*By Master Sgt. Will Ackerman  
8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

"Wolf Pack radio. What would you like to hear?"

Yes, it's true. Kunsan Air Base has its own radio station. Two to be exact: "Thunder" AM-1440 and "Wolf Pack Radio" FM-88.5.

They provide the same entertainment available on a commercial radio station in the United States, such as adult contemporary and rock music on "Wolf Pack radio" FM, and country, talk programs and National Public Radio on "Thunder" AM. However, these are merely tools to attract the military listener.

"The reason we exist is to disseminate command information to our military audience," said Tech. Sgt. Joe Klemenc, American Forces Network-Korea Kunsan station manager. "We are here for the (8th Fighter Wing commander) and his people."

Known formally as Air Force News Detachment 15, OL-B (Operating Location), the station's three broadcasters work for the U.S. Army. The local affiliate reports to an Army commander at AFN-Korea's headquarters at Yongsan Army Garrison in Seoul.

"Although we don't report to the Wolf, our entire existence here is for our stakeholders - the Wolf and the Wolf Pack," said Klemenc, whose radio nickname is "The Hitman."

Similar to a fisherman who uses bait to tempt fish, Klemenc, and Tech. Sgt. Sue Kyle, whose radio nickname is "Crusin' Susan," use contemporary music and trivia contests to attract Wolf Pack listeners to tune in, and therefore, hear the command information.

"A lot of people think our job is just fun and games," Klemenc said. "But we have to make the radio programming to where people will listen to it. We have to be creative and find out what is important to the listeners. We breathe with the base."

During peacetime operations, Kyle broadcasts live on Wolf Pack radio from 5-10 a.m. Monday through Friday.

Surrounded by a room full of compact discs, an audio mixing board and various programming computers, she plays music requests from Wolf Pack members who call into the station, plugging in command information announcements to replace paid advertisements people would hear if they listened to commercial radio in the United States. Military radio and television are commercial free.

Armed with tools such as a "Super Scheduler" computer database that lists all the song titles and artists in the station's inventory, the broadcasters can find one of hundreds of requested songs instantly. The station receives two to three shipments of new music compact discs weekly, which includes a floppy disk that the broadcasters use to quickly load the new titles into the database.

"The Super Scheduler gives us an easy way to locate songs people request," Klemenc said. "When people call me and ask, 'Do you know who sings this song?' the scheduler makes me look smarter because I can use the title or artist name to instantly pull up the compact disc number."

Finding songs quickly is valuable, especially during Kunsan combat readiness exercises when Wolf Pack members call in hundreds of music requests and dedications daily. Kyle and Klemenc each work 12-hour shifts during the exercises to keep Wolf Pack radio on the air 24 hours a day to provide instantaneous announcements regarding alarm conditions, incoming SCUD attacks and general information.

"The sooner we get out the information, the sooner the Wolf Pack will be able to react to the conditions," Kyle said.

Both Kyle and Klemenc agreed that there are many information sources available to Kunsan members during exercises, such as public affairs' newsletters and the "Giant Voice" public address system; however, radio can get critical information out to the troops in outlying areas, such as the flightline, quickly when events occur.

"I will get a call from our unit control center about a changing alarm condition



*Photos by Master Sgt. Will Ackerman, 8th FW/PA*

**Tech. Sgt. Sue "Cruisin Susan" Kyle, Wolf Pack radio broadcaster, and Col. Philip Breedlove, 8th Fighter Wing commander, talk to the Wolf Pack during a recent combat readiness exercise at Kunsan.**

and I can immediately reach a good majority of the base populace through radio because people have radios almost anywhere you can think of," Klemenc said. "Radio is immediate and is portable."

Additionally, during exercises if the "Giant Voice" or commander's access channel become inoperable, the station can still broadcast information that otherwise takes longer to disseminate via telephone or runners.

Realizing the value of radio's immediacy, Col. Philip Breedlove, 8th FW commander, frequently goes "live" on the air to talk to the Wolf Pack.

"With Wolf Pack radio, I can plug right into the people out in the wing and get information out," Breedlove said. "These guys are as valuable as you can get. They are Wolf Pack!"

But there's more than just radio. Adding another dimension is Staff Sgt. Fran Kelty who travels throughout the Pack to produce television news and feature stories about the airmen who make the Wolf Pack tick.

"My goal is to capture as many stories as I can about Wolf Pack airmen doing the mission and share that with the rest of the Air Force. I want people to know about the unique things that the airmen do here and the unique people that do them," Kelty said. "I also want people here to see how they fit into the 'big' Air Force picture."

"If I was here long enough, I would tell every single person's story because each has something significant to say. However, I don't have 2,700 days here," she said.

Although Kelty may spend up to 12 hours in one day with a unit capturing their mission on state-of-the-art digital

camera equipment, the final edited product is usually a 1.5-minute mission feature story that is sent to the station's Seoul headquarters for inclusion in its two AFKN News Tonight broadcasts at 6 and 10 p.m., Monday through Friday.

"I want to show the rest of the services that nobody does the mission better than the Wolf Pack and what a great team we are," she said.

Besides telling the Wolf Pack story, Kelty also works with the public affairs staff here to conduct on-camera media training for Kunsan commanders. During a recent readiness exercise, she role-played as a television reporter during a mock press conference putting several commanders on camera to test their spokesperson skills. Additionally, Kelty produced several two to four minute informational commander messages to air on Kunsan's commander's access channel before and during the Operational Readiness Inspection.

The wing's public affairs officer said training and informational tools such as these are valuable for Air Force commanders to better communicate with their airmen.

"AFN-K provides an invaluable service to the entire Wolf Pack community," said Capt. Chris Karns. "They are extremely good at keeping the base tuned into all of the base happenings, command news and providing senior leadership, as well as the entire base, a forum to highlight people, programs and to convey their messages."

Klemenc summed up why the customers in the Wolf Pack are important.

"We are not the show. They are the show!" he explained.

For more information about the radio or TV services call 782-4726.



**Staff Sgt. Fran Kelty, AFKN-TV broadcaster, edits an exercise press conference training video on an AVIDs digital editing system.**